

disclosures and descriptions herein are intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the invention which is set forth in the following claims.

- 5 Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following amended ABSTRACT:

An operations, management, capacity, and services (OMCS) tool and method are presented for assessing business solutions comprising alternative network architectures and management processes for a telecommunications network. The OMCS tool comprises means for selecting, engineering, and costing plurality of network architectures having various technologies and network, service, and customer management processes for the business solutions. The management processes create and establish management networks for managing the plurality of network architectures. The tool further comprises means for determining, storing, and displaying business parameters for the business solutions, analyzing business parameters for a plurality of network architectures; and comparing the business parameters for said network architectures for determining cost savings of one network architecture versus another and for determining a business solution that articulates the network architecture for reducing total expenditure. The business parameters comprise capital expenditure (CAPEX), operational expenditure (OPEX), ~~total expenditure,~~ revenue, capacity, return on investment (ROI), and other business and financial statistics. The OMCS tool and method ~~determine~~ assess the business solution for an owned, a leased, or partially owned and leased telecommunications network. The business ~~solutions~~ ~~solution further comprises~~ comprise network architectures ~~architecture~~ having network elements (NEs), customer premise equipment (CPE), and links from the same or different equipment suppliers; and management networks for managing the network architectures having network, service, and customer management processes from the same or different management processes suppliers.

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